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PROGRAM ABC World News Tonight

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SUBJECT The CIA: Part I

28-29 May 80

FRANK REYNOLDS: ...Another inves
the Central Intelligence Agency, is always
various congressional oversight committees.
a two-part series on the CIA and the turbulent times it has been
through in recent years.

Our correspondent, Brit Hume.

BRIT HUME: It was an extraordinary scene. A poison-
dart gun worthy of a James Bond movie was passed across the table
at a public hearing to be inspected by a panel of senators, while
the head of the Central Intelligence Agency told them how it
worked. But it was an extraordinary time. The CIA, the once-
feared and super-secret American spy agency, known as "The Com-
pany," was undergoing the most searching and public investigation
given any such agency in history.

That was 1975, in the heady days after Watergate, when
investigation was the order of the day here in Congress. And the
findings of these investigations made headlines for more than a
year.

Fidel Castro had been the target of no fewer than five
murder plots by the CIA between 1960 and '65. At one point, the
agency recruited a Mafia figure to help. All efforts failed.

The CIA also tried to poison Patrice Lumumba of the
Congo in 1960, but failed. Lumumba was later murdered by poli-
tical opponents.

Three other foreign leaders -- Diem of South Vietnam,
Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, and General Rene Schneider